

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02

ORM-01 SCCT-01 SY-05 /075 W
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R 042130Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4247

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

US MISSION USUN NEW YORK 1131

USCINCSO

DIA

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: CI; SHUM;

SUBJ: DEATHS AND DISAPPEARANCES OF CHILEAN EXTREMISTS:

"MERCURIO" CALLS FOR AN INVESTIGATION

REF: SANTIAGO 5185 (NOTAL)

1. REFTTEL INTER ALIA REPORTED JULY 25 EDITORIAL IN LEADING "EL MERCURIO" WHICH REFERRED TO ALLEGED DEATHS ABROAD OF CHILEAN EXTREMISTS AS RESULT OF INTERNAL PURGES. EDITORIAL COMMENTED THAT "THOSE WHO LIVE BY THE SWORD DIE BY THE SWORD". IT ACCEPTED AT FACE VALUE THE ACCOUNT OF THESE DEATHS CONTAINED IN BUENOS AIRES "LEA" ARTICLE, AND ADDED TRIUMPHANTLY THAT "FOREIGN POLITICIANS AND JOURNALISTS" NOW HAVE EXPLANATION FOR WHAT HAPPENED TO THOSE PERSONS WHO ARE ALLEGED TO HAVE DISAPPEARED IN CHILE.

2. IN REMARKABLE TURNABOUT, AUGUST 3 EDITORIAL EN-
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TITLED "THE RIGHT TO THE TRUTH" ACKNOWLEDGES THAT

"EL MERCUIRO" PRINTED FIRST NEWS DESPITE FACT
IT WAS UNCONFIRMED (NO REFERENCE TO PREVIOUS EDITORIAL).
HOWEVER, WITH PASSAGE OF TIME AND STILL NO CONFIRMATION
FROM EITHER GOC OR GOA, PLUS SILENCE ON SUBJECT BY WIRE SERVICES
(SIC - UPI BUENOS AIRES CARRIED "LEA" LIST) AND FACT THAT
ORIGINAL SOURCES ARE "NEWSPAPERS OF NO SIGNIFICANCE," IT IS NOW
TIME FOR A "CLARIFICATION OR SPECIFIC CONFIRMATION BY THE
AUTHORITIES" OF THIS "SUSPICIOUS INFORMATION." SUCH A CLARI-
FICATION WOULD ALSO BE HELPFUL TO GOC, EDITORIAL CONCLUDES,
SINCE OTHERWISE "IT WILL CONTINUE TO BE A DISTURBING FACTOR
WHICH WILL GIVE NEW SUSTENANCE TO THE ENEMIES OF CHILE."

3. COMMENT: WE HAVE NO EXPLANATION FOR "MERCURIO'S" ABOUTFACE.
WE NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT ALTHOUGH "MERCURIO" DID PRINT THE FIRST
("LEA" LIST, IT DID NOT PRINT THE SECOND ONE WHICH APPEARED
IN "O DIA," AN OBSCURE PUBLICATION IN CURITIBA, BRAZIL. A
"MERCURIO" STAFF MEMBER INDICATED TO US THE SECOND LIST HAD
BEEN TOO MUCH TO TAKE AT FACE VALUE. SECOND EDITORIAL IS MUCH
MILDER THAN PEACE COMMITTEE'S ADVERTISEMENT PUBLISHED IN
"MERCURIO" (SANTIAGO 5225), BUT BASIC MESSAGE IS THE SAME:
GOC MUST INVESTIGATE. FACT THAT IT NOW COMES FROM VOICE OF
PRO-JUNTA ESTABLISHMENT MAY ACCOUNT FOR SOFTER LANGUAGE.
EDITORIAL CHANGE MAY ALSO BE SOMEHOW RELATED TO FRONT PAGE STORY
ON SUBJECT IN AUG 3 "NY TIMES."
POPPER

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